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PENITENTIARY LOSSES.

Facts as Shown by the Official Figures Which Are on File.

The financial report made by Governor Foraker's speech at Columbus so far as it related to the Ohio Penitentiary, contained some very ingeniously arranged figures. Of course, Governor Foraker is not responsible for their arrangement—somebody else misplaced and improperly arranged them.

The main point at issue in the arrangement of the figures was that during the administration of the Democratic Administration the penitentiary lost \$205,061, while under four years of the Republican Administration it cleared \$212,000. The figures on file with the Auditor General's Office do not show this, of course, and no one would suspect Governor Foraker of making them tell a crooked story. The question is: Who deceived and misled the Governor?

In his speech Governor Foraker dwelt particularly on the fact that when the Democratic Administration turned the penitentiary over to Hostetler it was cleared \$53,000 a year with booming regularity. This, it will be remembered, is the strong point in Governor Foraker's speech. He says in the regular books of the official figures put this fairy story together. I quote the exact official figures losses and permanent improvements during the four years of Foster, on the same basis as the figures for Foster during Hostetler's Administration. These figures are as follows:

1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.	
Total earnings	\$174,287.79	\$174,287.79	\$174,287.79	\$174,287.79	\$174,287.79	\$174,287.79	\$174,287.79	\$174,287.79	\$174,287.79
Total expenses	\$205,061.11	\$205,061.11	\$205,061.11	\$205,061.11	\$205,061.11	\$205,061.11	\$205,061.11	\$205,061.11	\$205,061.11
Loss	\$38,773.32	\$38,773.32	\$38,773.32	\$38,773.32	\$38,773.32	\$38,773.32	\$38,773.32	\$38,773.32	\$38,773.32
Less permanent improvements	10,845.57	10,845.57	10,845.57	10,845.57	10,845.57	10,845.57	10,845.57	10,845.57	10,845.57
Total loss for the year	\$27,927.75	\$27,927.75	\$27,927.75	\$27,927.75	\$27,927.75	\$27,927.75	\$27,927.75	\$27,927.75	\$27,927.75
Total earnings	\$190,302.21	\$190,302.21	\$190,302.21	\$190,302.21	\$190,302.21	\$190,302.21	\$190,302.21	\$190,302.21	\$190,302.21
Total expenses	\$236,596.71	\$236,596.71	\$236,596.71	\$236,596.71	\$236,596.71	\$236,596.71	\$236,596.71	\$236,596.71	\$236,596.71
Loss	\$46,294.50	\$46,294.50	\$46,294.50	\$46,294.50	\$46,294.50	\$46,294.50	\$46,294.50	\$46,294.50	\$46,294.50
Less permanent improvements	10,845.57	10,845.57	10,845.57	10,845.57	10,845.57	10,845.57	10,845.57	10,845.57	10,845.57
Total loss for the year	\$35,448.93	\$35,448.93	\$35,448.93	\$35,448.93	\$35,448.93	\$35,448.93	\$35,448.93	\$35,448.93	\$35,448.93
Total earnings	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79
Total expenses	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79
Loss	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Less permanent improvements	8,895.24	8,895.24	8,895.24	8,895.24	8,895.24	8,895.24	8,895.24	8,895.24	8,895.24
Total loss	\$8,895.24	\$8,895.24	\$8,895.24	\$8,895.24	\$8,895.24	\$8,895.24	\$8,895.24	\$8,895.24	\$8,895.24

RECAPITULATION.

Earnings.		Expenses.	
1880	\$174,287.79	\$205,061.11	\$30,773.32
1881	\$190,302.21	\$236,596.71	\$46,294.50
1882	\$190,302.21	\$236,596.71	\$46,294.50
1883	\$250,737.79	\$250,737.79	\$0.00
Totals	\$825,627.30	\$969,132.76	\$143,505.46
Loss for four years	\$128,005.61		
From which should be deducted for permanent improvements completely above	\$5,555.71		
	\$122,449.90		
And to which should be added for lost and uncollectable accounts as per above	\$8,416.71		
Total loss for four years	\$130,866.61		

Against the figures of the regular books. This suddenly disappears Governor Foraker's beautiful fairy story about the penitentiary clearing \$53,000 annually under Foster's Administration, or a total of \$212,000. In Webster's spelling book, makes a mistake of just \$352,956.57, and, what makes it a remarkable coincidence, he makes it in favor of the Republican Governor.

Governor Foraker's speech is purged of this gross error, which some one imposed on him, there is nothing left of it except that came, which Dr. John F. Gieve, former Auditor of the penitentiary, says is just about as reliable as the figures imposed on the Governor.

It requires no affidavit in support of the figures I have given above. They are to be found in the regular books of the penitentiary, and are set forth in the most ample detail in the report of Hon. John F. Gieve, former Auditor of the penitentiary.

I have given the Foster Administration credit for all the permanent improvements made, and have charged to its losses the lost and uncollectable accounts to find, with the regular books, that against the Democratic Administration. Of course, when he finds out which is good, he will not imitate the Governor's sudden and scientific use of blessed memory, and set about trying to argue his way out of paying the damages.

The great point that Governor Foraker made is that during the Foster Administration the penitentiary cleared \$53,000 a year, and was profitable to the State to that extent. Now, the truth is, the penitentiary never paid expenses, and at no time during the Foster Administration did it come within \$100,000 of it, as I shall show.

In addition to the "expenses" above given, the Governor's Auditor, Foster, Legislature and paid out on account of the Ohio Penitentiary for the prosecution and transportation of prisoners the following sums:

1880	\$94,000.00
1881	\$2,387.17
1882	\$2,387.17
1883	\$4,775.31
Total	\$103,550.05

Add to this the \$140,956.57 of losses during the four years of Governor Foster, and you have the total of the "losses" at the penitentiary for the four years of \$334,098.59, instead of an annual profit of \$53,000 or \$212,000 for the period as claimed dishonorably by Governor Foraker. When we add the Governor's imaginary profits to the actual losses for the four years we find that he made a mistake of \$746,098.59.

Columbus, Ohio, June 1, 1884.

The occurrence of the "mistake" was probably as reasonable as we have any right to expect.

In conclusion I would say that the Governor's Auditor, Foster, and the Democratic Administration are just as reliable as those he makes in favor of the Republicans.

Of course,

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